UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

Arabic teaching.

23. **MR. K. A. MOHAMED** (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the number of Primary Schools in which there is no provision for Arabic teaching where the strength of Muslim pupils is more than 25; and

(*b*) what is the basis for the sanctioning of the appointment of the Arabic Instructors and Munshies in Malayalam Primary, Malayalam Middle and English Schools?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) 44.

(*b*) An attendance of at least 25 pupils in Primary Schools and 10 in English, Malayalam and Tamil High and Middle Schools.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE*: FAILURE OF CROPS.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member, Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai, has given notice of a motion for adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the serious situation that has been created in the country by the failure of crops in the current season consequent on the failure of the South-West Monsoon. The motion is not admissible, but as the matter is a very serious one, I think I ought to give a considered ruling on the subject.

First of all, the failure of the monsoon, made itself apparent many weeks ago, and the rules as to motions of adjournment of business for the purposes of debate are conditioned upon the subject being a definite matter of urgent public importance. The urgency, if it existed at all, existed before the 16th of August 1944 when all the adjournment motions were given. The ruling in the Assembly is, I have already indicated, that all motions relating to discussions on matters of urgent public importance should be handed in on the first day. I gave a ruling to that effect, and I have also added that if any supervening circumstances between the first day and the subsequent day rendered it necessary to move adjournment motions, those motions would also be considered. As the failure of the monsoon was prior to the first day's meeting, this matter is not one of urgent public importance for purposes of debate.

There is also another objection. The honourable members will see that a subject on which a resolution could not be moved, cannot be the subject matter of a motion for the adjournment of the House. According to Rule 57 at page 44 of the Manual, a resolution can be moved only if it can be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to Government, and must raise a definite issue. In the nature of things, the failure of the monsoon melancholic as it has been, and the failure of crops which has been its concomitant, are matters on which such a resolution cannot be moved, but in order that a mere attitude of *non-possumus* should not be attributed to Government I may say this at once; while I am obliged to disallow the motion under the Rules appertaining to motions of adjournment of the House

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for the purpose of discussing a matter of definite public importance, I may state for the information of the House that this Government have immediately apprised the Government of India of the seriousness of the situation here. The honourable members may also be relieved to learn that within the last two weeks, the honourable Mr. Somerset Butler, Director of Food Rationing, Government of India, and Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary to the Department of Food in the Government of India as well as the Regional Commissioner and the Deputy Regional Commissioner have all visited Travancore. They were taken to places where the crops have failed, both south of Trivandrum and north of Trivandrum. They have been acquainted with the fact that we expect a serious shortage of foodstuffs and that it has accentuated the general scarcity of food in the State. They have been made fully acquainted with it and apart from that this Government have addressed the Government of India to regulate their supply of food in definite contemplation of this serious shortage of our own indigenous supply. I expect a favourable attitude on the part of the Central Government in this matter, but it must be stated at the same time that just as we have suffered from a deficit supply, many parts of the country which are producing grain have suffered from very heavy floods—floods to which some of those countries have been unaccumstomed. The annual rainfall per year in the province of Sind which supplies no small portion of our food-stuffs is about 10 inches. But this year, there has been 26 inches of rainfall there and this has resulted in floods. There have been floods in the Tapti, in the Narmada, in the Mahanadi and in parts of Bihar and Bengal. The Government of India may find themselves in a difficult position to meet with our requests and therefore I am repeating what I have said before viz., that it would be a false expectation to hope for the full supply of rice or even the supply which we had reason to expect about a month ago. But this Government have made it abundantly clear to the Central Government and what I say just now will no doubt be taken note of by the Central Government—the statement that I am now making will be transmitted to them—that this Government cannot possibly undertake to feed the people of the State on bajra, gram, millets and pulses especially at this juncture. I would therefore expect the Government of India to supply us either with rice or with wheat. We are hopeful that this would be done. We have also pointed out to the Government of India that the quality of the rice and wheat that have been supplied to us has been very seriously at fault. The more so it is in the case of Australian wheat. We have pointed out to the representatives of the Government of India who have visited this State that the Australian wheat that has been received here is practically unusable. They themselves have seen some of that grain, and although I cannot commit them that they are convinced, we have got a good case. Over and above that there are measures necessitated by the failure of the monsoon in specific localities—relief measures to the distressed and also relief from taxation. Those matters are under the careful and anxious consideration of Government and the honourable

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members will see that although this adjournment motion cannot be moved, the object underlying the adjournment motion has the complete sympathy of the Government and the Government are endeavouring to see that such relief as is practicable is given under the circumstances.

I rule the adjournment motion out of order.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: ADDITIONAL RATION ALLOTMENT FOR ONAM.

PRESIDENT: I wish to make an announcement. In connection with the Onam, Government are making available to each rationing area an additional allotment of rice equivalent to one fourth of the weekly basic ration for distribution as special supplies. In the Trivandrum City and in the Municipal area of Kottayam, Alleppey, Quilon and Nagercoil, the Area Rationing Officers will distribute this additional allotment by special chits to be issued by them. In all the rural areas the card holders will be allowed to purchase an additional quantity of rice equivalent to one fourth of the rice portion of the basic ration due to them under the ration card. Card holders who have already purchased the ration for the current week in the rural areas would be allowed to draw the additional quantity of rice due accordingly. It may be noted that the special and enhanced supply of rice mentioned above will be for the current week only.

RESULTS OF ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE AND THE COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: The following are the results of the elections held yesterday for the Senate and the Committees.

1. *The University Senate*:
   1. Mr. K. A. Mathew
   2. Mr. M. R. Ramakrishna Pillai
   3. Mr. K. A. Muhammed.
2. *The Standing Finance Committee*:
   1. Mr. N. D. Paramesvaran Nambudiri
   2. Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai.
3. *The Public Accounts Committee*:
   1. Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai
   2. Mr. S. Thiraviam Nadar.
4. *The P. W. D. Advisory Committee.*
   1. Mr. R. Madhavan Nair
   2. Mr. K. T. Michael.
   3. Mr. K. R. Narayanan
   4. Mr. Varkala K. Madhavan.
5. *The Transport Advisory Committee.*
   1. Mr. P. K. Kunju
   2. Mr. V. K. Velappan Nair.

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